

THE KNOXVILLE INDEPENDENT

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DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS

SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO NONE.

OF THE COMMON PEOPLE.

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CONGRESSMAN AUSTIN ENDORSED BY SAMUEL GOMPERS PRESIDENT AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

MR. GOMPERS CERTIFIES THAT MR. AUSTIN HAS NEVER FAILED TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF LABOR, AND THE BEST INTERESTS OF LABORING MEN WHENEVER THE OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN AFFORDED. MR. AUSTIN HAS RESPONDED TO EVERY CALL OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR WITHOUT MAKING ANY EXCUSE AND WITHOUT HESITANCY. THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR THROUGH ITS GREAT PRESIDENT, MR. GOMPERS FURNISHES A CONCISE RECORD OF MR. AUSTIN'S VOTE ON ALL IMPORTANT LABOR MEASURES, WHICH PROVES THAT HE HAS NEVER FAILED TO VOTE RIGHT WHEN LABOR WAS INVOLVED.



Samuel Gompers.

President, American Federation of Labor

Mr. Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, has written George W. Ford, Editor of the Knoxville Independent, a strong letter endorsing Congressman Richard W. Austin and his stand on all matters in which the laboring men of the country have been interested during his career as a Member of Congress from this district. While Mr. Gompers is not attempting to dictate nor direct the labor vote of this district, he says he would be derelict in his duty should he not testify to the valuable assistance which Mr. Austin has rendered to Labor in the House of Representatives. Mr. Gompers' letter, which was written in Washington on July 18th, is as follows:

"MR. GEORGE W. FORD, Organizer,
American Federation of Labor,
718 South Gay Street, Knoxville, Tenn.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Your communication, dated July 17th, requesting that I indicate to you the attitude of the Federation toward Representative Richard Wilson Austin, of your state, is hereby acknowledged.

"Representative Austin is now serving his fifth term, and during that period an opportunity has been afforded to view his work in Congress and render judgment thereon from the standpoint of labor. His record votes upon measures affecting labor have been generally fair, and he has rendered invaluable assistance in securing the passage of legislation in the interest of labor.

"In addition to this, he is invited to all conferences which are held by members of the labor group in Congress to consider legislative matters of vital importance to labor.

"The policy of the American Federation of Labor has always been to reward our friends and administer a stinging rebuke to our enemies. While it is not within my province to dictate, and neither is it my desire to direct, as to the attitude to be assumed by Union men in political matters, yet I should be derelict to my duty should I not in answering your communication testify to the valuable assistance which Mr. Austin has rendered to Labor in the House of Representatives.

"With kind regards and best wishes,
(Signed)

"SAMUEL GOMPERS,

"President, American Federation of Labor."

Mr. Gompers has furnished to Mr. Ford a complete record of Mr. Austin's labor vote, and it shows that Mr. Austin voted for and supported the following measures of interest to labor:

1.—The railroad employees' standardization of equipment bill (a safety appliance act), December 15, 1909.

2.—For the mine workers bureau of mines act, January 25, 1910.

3.—For the amendment to the employers' liability act, February 23, 1910.

4.—For the eight-hour amendment to the appropriation bill for the construction of revenue cutters, March 2, 1910.

5.—For the eight-hour amendment for the construction of battleships, colliers and other vessels of the navy, April 8, 1910.

6.—For the Postal Savings bank bill, which passed the house June 2, 1910.

7.—For the retention in the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill of the Hughes amendment, which reads as follows:

"Provided further, that no part of this money shall be spent in the prosecution of any organization or individual for entering into any combination or agreement having in view the increasing of wages, shortening of hours, or bettering the conditions of labor, or for any act done in furtherance thereof NOT IN ITSELF UNLAWFUL."

It may also be added that Mr. Austin actively endeavored to secure support for this very essential amendment to the Sundry Civil Bill while it was before the house.

8.—Mr. Austin voted for the phos-

phorus match bill, for the protection

of match workers, on March 26, 1912.

9.—When the Children's Bureau Bill was before the house, Mr. Austin was absent from the city attending the funeral of Senator Taylor, consequently he is recorded as "not voting."

10.—On May 13, 1912, he voted for an amendment to the Constitution making provision for the popular election of United States Senators.

11.—On May 14, 1912, when the special rule for the consideration of the Clayton Injunction Limitation Bill was before the house, Mr. Austin is recorded as voting for the rule.

12.—On July 8, 1912, when the special consideration of the Clayton Contempt Bill was voted upon, Mr. Austin is recorded as voting "aye" or in favor of it; and on July 11, when the Contempt Bill itself was before the house, Mr. Austin is again recorded as voting in favor of it.

13.—December 17, 1912, the Immigration Bill containing the literacy test for immigrants, which was favored by labor, was passed by the house, with Congressman Austin voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

14.—On February 19, 1913, on the passage of the Immigration Bill with the literacy test over President Taft's veto, Mr. Austin is recorded as voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

15.—March 1, 1913, the bill granting compensation for injuries to workmen engaged in Interstate Commerce, favored by labor, and passed by the house, Mr. Austin is recorded as voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

16.—March 4, 1913, the house passed Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill over President Taft's veto, who had vetoed the bill because it contained a proviso favored by labor that no part of the money appropriated should be expended in the prosecution of any organization or individual for entering into any agreement or combination having in view the increasing of wages, shortening of hours, or bettering the conditions of labor. Mr. Austin is recorded as voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

17.—February 2, 1914, the house passed the Immigration Bill containing the literacy test as advocated by the American Federation of Labor. Congressman Austin voted "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

18.—April 17, 1914, a record vote was taken on an amendment to increase the appropriation for the children's bureau. This was favored by labor, and Congressman Austin is recorded as voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

19.—January 7, 1915, conference made report on the Immigration Bill, which had been changed in the Senate in various ways. Terrific opposition was again raised against the literacy test being retained in the bill. Congressman Austin is recorded as voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

20.—January 28, 1915, President Wilson vetoed the Immigration Bill because it contained the literacy test. Congressman Austin is recorded as voting to pass the bill over the President's veto or in favor of the interest of labor.

21.—February 15, 1915, the house passed the Palmer Child Labor Bill which was strongly advocated by labor. Mr. Austin is recorded as voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

22.—February 2, 1916, the Keating Child Labor Bill was passed by the house, Congressman Austin voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

23.—March 14, 1916, the Borland amendment to the legislative Appropriation Bill for the purpose of increasing the work day for government employees without extra compensation, and without overtime rates, which the American Federation of Labor opposed, failed to pass the house, with Congressman Austin voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

24.—March 24, 1916, the rule to consider the Immigration Bill containing the literacy test, favored by labor, came up in the house, with Congressman Austin voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

25.—March 30, 1916, two votes were taken on the Immigration Bill, one to recommit and strike out the literacy test, and the other on the final passage of the bill. Representative Austin is recorded as voting in the interest of labor on both of these propositions.

26.—June 22, 1916, Representative Tamm, of Illinois, offered an amendment to the Fortification Bill which prohibited "the use of the stop-watch" and other time-measuring devices in navy yards, arsenals, and other government workshops. The amendment strongly urged by labor, was passed, with Congressman Austin voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

27.—July 12, 1916, the Federal Employees' Automatic Compensation for Injuries Bill, urged by labor, was passed by the house, with Congressman Austin recorded as voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

28.—August 7, 1916, Representative Nolan, of California, called up his bill providing that \$3.00 per day should be the minimum wage of Federal employees. The American Federation of Labor strongly urged the passage of this bill. In order to defeat the bill, a vote was taken on adjournment, which carried. Con-



RICHARD W. AUSTIN

Congressman, Second District of Tennessee

interest of labor.

29.—December 16, 1916, the house, while in committee of the whole, considering the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, had a resolution before it providing for increases for government employees, which carried, with Representative Austin voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

30.—December 21, 1916, the District of Columbia Appropriation Bill, with an objectionable amendment to increase the hours of service of government employees was considered, with Representative Austin voting in the interest of labor.

31.—January 8, 1917, the Agricultural Appropriation Bill came up with an amendment, favored by labor, increasing the compensation of employees of the Agricultural Department, which was carried, with Congressman Austin voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

32.—February 1, 1917, the Immigration Bill constantly urged by the American Federation of Labor and the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, was passed over the President's veto, with Congressman Austin voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

33.—September 13, 1917, the Bureau of War Risk Insurance Bill for sailors and soldiers, favored by labor, was passed, with Congressman Austin voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

34.—March 26, 1918, a bill granting increase in compensation to postal employees came up in the house, and carried, with Congressman Austin voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

35.—March 26, 1918, Congressman Black moved to recommit the postal employees' bill, with instructions to change the rate of increase, which was opposed by labor. Congressman Austin voted "nay" or in favor of the interest of labor. On the final passage of this bill, Congressman Austin is recorded as voting "aye" or in favor of the interest of labor.

WHY TAKE RICHARD W. AUSTIN OUT OF CONGRESS, WITH SUCH A LABOR RECORD AS IS SHOWN ABOVE?